



**VICENTE FOX QUESADA**  
GOBERNADOR DEL ESTADO DE GUANAJUATO

Guanajuato, Gto., 12 February 1999

***OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT CLINTON***

**The Honorable William J. Clinton**

President  
The United States of America  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500 USA

Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of the people of Guanajuato, let me extend a warm welcome you to as you prepare for your important February 14th visit to Mexico.

I understand that the main issues you will be discussing with President Zedillo include our two nations' mutual commitment to eradicate the scourge of drugs from our societies; immigration concerns of the United States; and the cross-border issues of pollution and water rights.

While these are certainly critical and timely, let me raise for your consideration other issues that, as a Governor of a vibrant state, I feel are worthy of increased attention from your government.

First, in the broadest terms, it may be time to consider that the NAFTA agreement should, step-by-step, evolve into an arrangement more along the lines of the European Union. As we enter the 21st Century, the United States, Canada and Mexico need to move beyond this initial phase of NAFTA as a trade agreement and start moving toward a Common Market agreement. Your continued leadership in this regard will be crucial to such a development.

Secondly, Mexico's economy remains under a heavy shadow from our own recent economic crisis. Within very strict guidelines and fiscal discipline, it may be time to consider a currency board option as constructive for Mexico's future. I would urge your administration to review this possibility, and to give it all due consideration in international discussions.

Third, I have heard of your deep personal concern about the world economic crisis. What has been missing from the debates in the developed world, however, is the notion that human capital is the moving source for all success, worldwide.



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Sharing positive results in this regard, in Guanajuato we guarantee five fundamentals to everyone: access to quality healthcare, housing, education, credit facilities and the basic home necessities of potable water, telephone and electricity. You may want to consider ensuring that all joint Mexican-US assistance programs incorporate these fundamental values.

Lastly, during this time of transition in Mexico, many feel it is important for our neighbors to continue to encourage the political liberalization now underway within our country. As a positive step in this direction, the United States should actively consider assisting Mexican citizens residing in the United States with the capacity to vote in our presidential elections in the year 2000.

Mexico is undergoing tremendous change, and indeed, must, if we are to excel within the new dynamics of the 21st Century. Mexico must place high priority on investment on human capital. Mexico must promote non-speculative foreign investment. Mexico must reduce the size of our federal bureaucracy to lessen the fiscal pressure it exerts on the productive sectors of our economy. Cooperative programs with the US that support these goals may, in the end, be the most constructive for both our nations' goals.

In closing, Mr. President, these more fundamental and long-term issues, issues of vision and bold action, are the order of the day to address the changing and dynamic relationship between our two nations, as well as the health and prosperity of our common hemisphere.

As you undertake your discussions with the current national leadership of Mexico, I hope that you will bear these issues in mind, and move the debate toward our more fundamental concerns.

Again, Mr. President, please accept from the State of Guanajuato a warm welcome to Mexico.

Sincerely,

Vicente FOX Quesada  
Governor, State of Guanajuato